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2 on House Intelligence Panel Call for War Data Testimony

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Two members of the House intelligence committee yesterday called for a quick follow-up to charges that high-ranking U.S. officials deliberately misled Congress and the public about the war in Vietnam.

In a letter to Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), Reps. David C. Treen (R-La.) and Dale Milford (D-Tex.) proposed hearing from, among others, former White House national security adviser Walt W. Rostow, former Ambassador to Vietnam Ellsworth Bunker, former CIA Director Richard Helms and retired Gens. William C. Westmoreland and Earle G. Wheeler.

A former CIA analyst, Samuel A. Adams, charged at a committee hearing Thursday that all five men, among others, were aware that enemy troop strengths were "deliberately downgraded" for fear of arousing public opposition to the war.

"The allegation that information was manipulated in order to fool the American people, the American press and Congress is a charge of serious magnitude," Treen and Milford said.

"It is not only important that we give those who have been accused an opportunity to tell their side of the story, but it is also important that we pursue this inquiry in order to determine ways and means of insuring that manipulation of information being furnished Congress cannot occur," they said.

Other requested witnesses include Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, now head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, whom Adams accused of helping to lower Army estimates of Vietcong strength; Lt. Richard McArthur, an intelligence officer who was reportedly transferred abruptly in Vietnam after refusing to "lie a little" about guerrilla troop strengths, Paul V. Walsh, a CIA official who allegedly supported the circulation of enemy troop strength estimates after calling them a "snow job," and Col. Gains B. Hawkins, a briefing officer for Westmoreland.

The Senate intelligence committee, headed by Frank Church (D-Idaho), is to hold public hearings next week on the Nixon administration's so-called "Huston Plan" for domestic surveillance, and closed-door sessions on the code-breaking National Security Agency.

In addition, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) is to appear before the Senate committee in executive session Monday at 2:30 p.m. to testify at his own request about the late President Kennedy's relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency when the CIA was plotting to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.